

REMARKS

The final Office Action of March 9, 2006, has been received and reviewed.

Claims 34-70 and 72-120 are currently pending and under consideration in the above-referenced application. It has been indicated that claims 100-109 are allowed and that claims 43, 46, 48-51, 61, 62, 65-69, 75, 78, 80-83, 85-87, 95-99, 111, and 116-120 recite allowable subject matter. Each of claims 34-42, 44, 45, 47, 52-60, 63, 64, 70, 72-74, 76, 77, 79, 84, 88-94, 110, and 112-115 stands rejected.

It is proposed that claims 46, 61, 75, 96, and 111 be canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and that claims 34, 49, 52, 70, 84, and 110 be amended.

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 100-109 and the indication that claims 43, 46, 48-51, 61, 62, 65-69, 75, 78, 80-83, 85-87, 95-99, 111, and 116-120 are drawn to allowable subject matter are noted with appreciation. It is proposed that independent claims 34, 52, 70, 84, and 110 be amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter recited in claims 46, 61, 75, 96, and 111, respectively. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 34, 52, 70, 84, and 110, as well as the claims that depend therefrom, are allowable.

Claim Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the proposed amendments to independent claims 34, 52, 70, 84, and 110 to recite subject matter that the Office has indicated to be allowable, each of the previously asserted rejections of these claims and their dependent claims are moot.

Although it is proposed that independent claims 34, 52, 70, 84, and 110 be amended to facilitate allowance of the above-referenced application, these proposed amendments should in no way be considered to abandon Applicants' previously submitted positions with respect to the subject matter that was previously recited in each of these claims. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue that subject matter and resubmit their prior arguments in a related application.

Entry of Amendments

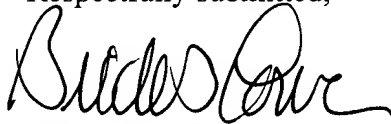
Entry of the proposed claim amendments is respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that claim amendments that have been proposed directly address all of the issues that remain in the above-referenced application, placing the application in condition for allowance. It is further submitted that the proposed amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter into the above-referenced application, and that their entry would not necessitate an additional search.

In the event that the proposed amendments to the claims are not entered, it is respectfully requested that they be entered upon the filing of a Notice of Appeal in the above-referenced application.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 34-45, 47-60, 62-70, 72-74, 76-95, 97-110, and 112-120 is allowable. An early notice of the allowability of each of these claims is respectfully solicited, as is an indication that the above-referenced application has been passed for issuance. If any issues preventing allowance of the above-referenced application remain which might be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Office is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brick G. Power", written in a cursive style.

Brick G. Power
Registration No. 38,581
Attorney for Applicants
TRASKBRITT, PC
P.O. Box 2550
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2550
Telephone: 801-532-1922

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